

# THEY WERE CUT TO THE HEART.

## Acts 6.13-7:60

**Acts 6:9** *There arose:* stirred to anger and to action.

**Disputing with Stephen.** Organized and formal debate Topic of Debate: Is Jesus the Messiah and is the Temple the real place of worship? Does God dwell in the Temple?

### Acts 6:10-11

1. They recruited men to lie under oath.
2. They stirred up the people.

**Acts 6:12-14** Half-truths. Yes, some customs had to be changed but not the moral law. Cowardly accusations

- Going against God.
- Going against Word of God
- Telling them that the lifestyle presented by God to Moses is wrong.

**Acts 6:15** *Not fearful.* Sin creates spiritual cowards. Proverbs 28:1; 29:25

Why a Stephen have boldness?

1. No fear of condemnation Rom 8:1
2. Knew nothing would ever separate him from love of God. Rom 8:39
3. Clear conscience
4. Had faith in God.

*...face of an angel.*

Adam Clarke: ... *the face of Stephen now shone as the face of Moses did when he came down from the mount, it was the fullest proof that he had not spoken blasphemous words either against Moses or God; else this splendor of heaven had not rested upon him.*

**Acts 7:1-3** Stephen not trying to save his hide. He starts with Abraham. Founder of Jews religion. All faith began with him.

Abraham uprooted family, left homeland, traveled to place God led him.

Application: must be a willingness to move when God says move. God has privilege to override your traditions with new revelation.

**Acts 7:4-8** There was no Temple or law. God blessed Abraham because of his faith

**Acts 7: 9-36** Every time God sent someone to help deliver them...rejected

### Acts 7: 9-16 Joseph

Just as the patriarchs rejected Joseph you have rejected Christ.

Application: God put together the events in lives of Joseph's family ...under Joseph's leadership.

Stephen letting Sanhedrin know that God is doing what he did in days of Joseph. He is putting the events of history together to bring the Jews to Christ.

**Acts 7: 17-36 Moses**

- Bondage of Israel(17-19)
- Birth and deliverance of Moses (20-22)
- Brethren of Moses (23-28)
- Moses' Flees to another land and waits. (29-31)
- God commissions Moses to rescue His people. (30-36)

**Acts 7:37-43** Religious leaders rebelled against leadership and laws

**Acts 7: 44-50** Israel mistreated Tabernacle and Temple

Applies it! Doing OK until applied it

**Acts 7:51** You are defiant, unclean and filthy!

Your hearts are dirty and your ears are dirty.

You don't love God and won't listen to Him.

*Ye do always resist the Holy Ghost* You accuse me of reviling the Holy Place.

You are guilty of resisting Holy Ghost!

*Stiffnecked*: obstinate; defiant. You spiritual leaders are defiant and refuse to bow before the God of Heaven.

*Uncircumcised in heart and ears*: **Ezek 44:6-9** You are not qualified to enter into presence of God. You have fulfilled the outward rite of circumcision but not inwardly. ... *resist the Holy Ghost*: You stand in opposition to the Spirit of God!

➤ Quench 1 Th 5:19

➤ Grieve Eph 4:30

➤ Resist 7:51

*Resist*: expression taken from oxen that are obstinately resistant to authority or control. Stubborn and unwilling to submit to the restraints of Law.

*As your fathers did, so do ye*. Just like your predecessors.

Opposed ones God sent ; Opposed Scriptures; Opposed sanctuaries given you by God ; Stubborn and unwilling to submit to leading of Holy Spirit ; Positioned yourself against Spirit of God.

**Acts 7:52** You accuse me of slighting Moses, the Man of God.

Give me one name of a prophet, which your spiritual leaders before you didn't persecute.

These are nothing compared to the crime you have just committed.

You have murdered the Messiah.

**Acts 7:53** Deliberately destroyed the laws of God, even though you received them from the hands of angels. Dt 33:2; Gal 3:19; Heb 2:2

*You have not only broken the law but you have now taken the Mediator of the New Covenant and murdered Him.*

**Acts 7:54** *Cut to the heart:* sawn asunder. Infuriated; *Gnashed on him with their teeth.* Ground teeth in rage. Maybe actually attacked him and bit him.

**Acts 7:55** *...Jesus standing on the right hand of God.* God gave complete peace. Focus no longer on accusers.

What is Jesus doing right now? Mark 16:19; Luke 22:69; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3

Here He is standing.

**Acts 7:56** *...and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.* Mark 14:60-62 *Son of man.* Messianic title.

Think of what Stephen is doing: He is saying that Jesus is co-equal to the Father because he is standing on the right hand of God.

Right hand speaks of authority.

Jesus is the authority of God, the Father.

Jesus is God!

**Acts 7:57-58** The stoning--formal affair.

- The guilty was marched outside the city gates to a place of the execution.
- Given opportunity to confess sin and get right with God
- Stopped at top of a huge pit, 10-12 ft deep.
- One of the witnesses push him over edge ... fell face downward into the ravine below.
- Turn him over and another accuser/witness throw huge stone at face.
- If survived, whole crowd pick up stones and immediately crush him to death.

An immediate thing. They pushed him as fast as they could

**Acts 7:59** Last words: *calling upon God! ...saying, Lord Jesus,*

**Acts 7:60...** *Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.* Mat 5:44

*Fell asleep:* Implication: wakes up in heaven!

## SO WHAT?

- Don't be surprised when people attack with half-truths
- Keep focus on God
- Sin creates spiritual cowards.
- When you take a stand make sure you use the Word!
- Apply it.
- Be prepared for the consequences!
- Stay focused on the Lord
- Don't get bitter